

Green Mountain Care Board
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Kevin Mullin, Chair
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January 3, 2018

Tristram J. Coffin, Esq.
Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC
199 Main Street, Courthouse Plaza
P.O. Box 190
Burlington, Vermont 05602-0190

Re: GMCB-016-17con. Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team, Request for Jurisdictional Determination

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Mr. Coffin:

The Board has reviewed your letter of December 14, 2017 concerning expansion of air ambulance services provided by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advanced Response Team (DHART). Based on the facts you provided, as outlined below, the project does not require a certificate of need (CON).

As stated in your letter, Dartmouth-Hitchcock was issued a CON in 1998 for DHART, an air ambulance service that currently transports patients to and from the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC). Dartmouth-Hitchcock plans to expand this service by establishing a helicopter base in the Burlington area to provide greater access for patients, particularly those in northwestern Vermont and northern New York. Dartmouth-Hitchcock will enter into a lease arrangement with UVMMC to use its employees (nurses, paramedics, physician) to assist with medical oversight during transports between the facilities. Dartmouth-Hitchcock will continue to manage the DHART program, bill and collect payment for its services, and will be responsible for ensuring that the aircraft is appropriately provisioned. Dartmouth-Hitchcock does not expect to incur any capital expenses, but will incur additional operating expenses (*e.g.* lease of helicopter, staffing, hangar and office space, employee lease payments, and costs associated with medications and supplies) related to the project.

As described, the project is not a “new health care project” subject to CON jurisdiction. *See* 18 V.S.A. § 9434(b). Although the project’s operating expenses may exceed the monetary threshold under 18 V.S.A. § 9434(b)(3), the threshold is only triggered if the services were not offered within the three previous fiscal years. *Id.* The air ambulance services that will be offered are not new, but are an expansion of services that Dartmouth-Hitchcock has offered for almost two decades.



The Board therefore concludes that the project does not require CON review. If there are changes in the type, scope or costs of the project, however, please notify the Board immediately so that we may determine whether further review is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 828-1968.

Sincerely,

s/ Judy Henkin

General Counsel, Green Mountain Care Board

cc: Kevin Mullin, Chair, GMCB
Jessica Holmes, Member, GMCB
Robin Lunge, Member, GMCB
Tom Pelham, Member, GMCB
Maureen Usifer, Member, GMCB
Donna Jerry, Health Policy Analyst, GMCB
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